

Naturalist notebook

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NATURALIST NOTEBOOK

MARCH 1968

VOLUME III NO. 3

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Breaking out.

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Published by the

THAMES SCIENCE CENTER

622 Williams Street

New London, Connecticut 06320

JOHN F. GARDNER — *Executive Director*

ROBERT C. DEWIRE — *Naturalist*

The NATURALIST NOTEBOOK is published monthly. Subscription available through membership only.

The Thames Science Center is a non-profit organization seeking a quality environment through education.

The active support of children and adults in the Science Center, its programs, activities and efforts is earnestly solicited.

JOHN F. GARDNER
Editor

The Interpretive Museum of 622 Williams Street, New London, Connecticut 06320
The Peace Sanctuary Nature Preserve At 200 River Road, Mystic, Connecticut 06355

MARCH'S NATURE CALENDAR

MARCH is the month of early signs of spring. They are all around us as plants begin to push up from the ground, animals awake from their winter sleep and the first birds begin arriving from the South. Let's see what some of the things are, that we can be on the lookout for, during this month.



Redwing

Both snowdrops and crocus will be in flower in March, along with such woodland plants as skunk cabbage and pussy willows. Other plants will now be pushing up through the ground, such as marsh marigolds and some of the ferns. The buds will be swelling on some of the trees, such as red maple.



CROCUS

The first one or two real warm days of the month will bring several animals out of their winter sleep. The mourning cloak butterfly may be seen flying around the woods. On a warm evening in mid-March, you will hear the spring peepers calling from swampy areas. Wood frogs will also be calling, but mostly in the daytime. Red-winged Blackbirds will be setting up territories and other birds arriving include the phoebe, tree swallow and the osprey or fish hawk.



Robin

If you go out in the woods or along the shore, keep track of the things that you see for the first time and mark down the dates. Then in following years see if you discover the same things earlier or later in the month. It is not only fun but gets you more aware of the natural world around you.



Frog



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Privileges Of Membership

The Naturalist Notebook, our monthly magazine for children and adults ● Free participation in a wide variety of programs such as: Bi-weekly Family Nature Jaunts, Adult Field Trips, Monthly Family Film Festival and Periodic Lecture Programs ● Special rates for the Summer Nature Study Day Camp, National Audubon Wildlife Film Lecture Series, Monthly Junior Naturalist Workshops, and Adult Natural Science Workshops ● A discount at the Science Center Store on all items over \$1 including books, science kits, nature motif gifts plus wild bird and sunflower seed ● In addition your membership supports the preservation of The Peace Sanctuary Nature Preserve in Mystic, maintenance of the Nature Interpretive Museum in New London, and educational programs for schools, youth groups and special classes ● Your membership helps the effort to create a quality environment through education....

Editor

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COMPLIMENTARY COPY

We Invite Your Membership

More, keep track of the things that you see for the first time and mark down the dates. Then in following years see if you discover the same things earlier or later in the month. It is not only fun but gets you more aware of the natural world around you.



Frog

MARCH'S NATURE CALENDAR

March is the month of melting snow, the first green, migrating birds and spring....

Mar. 2... Pussy Willow in bloom on sunny areas throughout S. E. Conn.

Mar. 5... Skunk Cabbage in bloom on marshland.

Mar. 8... Listen for birds singing around your feeder, such as Song Sparrows, Nuthatches and Cardinals.

Mar. 9... Maple tree sap begins to run and sugaring off begins.

Mar. 14... The Worm Moon shines full on S. E. Connecticut, fetching up worms to be met by hungry robins.

Mar. 18... Wood frogs give thick duck-line calls from woodland ponds.

Mar. 20... The first day of Spring arrives at 8:22 A. M.

Mar. 21... Spring peepers can be heard in marshy areas in the late afternoon and evening.

Mar. 22... The eastern phoebe arrives from the south and its loud call of "phoebe" can be heard.

Mar. 25... Watch areas where the Osprey nests for early arriving birds.

Mar. 29... The beautiful Wood Duck arrives on many ponds and the Woodcock begins its elaborate courtship flights in open areas.

Watch for the early signs of spring. You might want to keep a record of each event that occurs in your neighborhood....

For a complete listing of the Thames Science Center's programs and activities write for Calendar of Events Bulletin....

The Children's Corner

by TRUDY GARDNER

There are many willows, but the one most liked by children is the Pussy Willow.

It loves moist wet ground and if you know of a location where it is growing, you will notice that this is the month that it loses its brown varnished looking covering and the soft furry blossom appears.

The willow flowers are very important to the bees, as it gives them the pollen they need to make bee bread for their early family. They also get their honey supply from the nectar which is made in little jug-shaped glands at the bottom of each blossom.

If you gather a few willow twigs and place them in water, you will soon notice the furry flowers appearing and also you will see roots shooting out. These roots are very long and strong.

A willow twig lying flat on moist soil will push out roots along the whole length and shoots will grow from buds on its upper side.

The willow is of great use as a soil holder. There is nothing better than a thick hedge of willows to hold streams in their proper channel, as the roots reach out in all directions and hold the soil of the banks in place.



Willow wood is soft and very light in weight, although when seasoned it becomes very tough and is used in industry for things such as baskets.

There is a chemical which is used in a great many of our medicines that is taken from the willow bark.

So you can see, that in addition to being one of the first flowers of spring, the Pussy Willow helps man in conservation and industry.

As an activity you might take a twig of the Pussy Willow and put it in a container of water. Watch the buds open up and see the little furry blossoms, at the same time you will see the roots grow and develop.

When the weather becomes a little warmer you can plant your Pussy Willow in a favorite spot and next year have your own Pussy Willow shrub.

Animals use their tails in many different ways: a fly swatter (horse), parachute and balancing (squirrel), extra arm (opossum), communication (beaver), locomotion (fish), weapons (crocodile), to lean against (kangaroo), and nose warmer (fox), the Massachusetts Audubon Society tells us.

ROCK HOUNDS

by JERRY THEILER

STREAK and COLOR

Minerals display every color of the rainbow. A single mineral can even occur in a variety of colors. For this reason we rely on the streak of a mineral rather than the color of the specimen lump.

The streak may be defined as the color of the mineral powder. It is constant even if the specimen lump varies. For example, a lump of fluorite can be green, blue, brown, yellow, white and purple, but all of these specimens would have a white powder or streak.

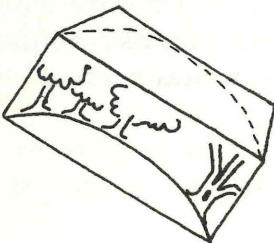
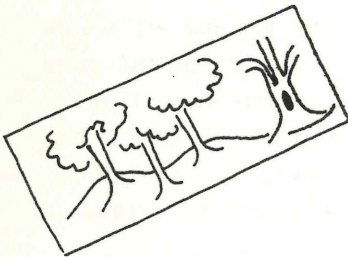
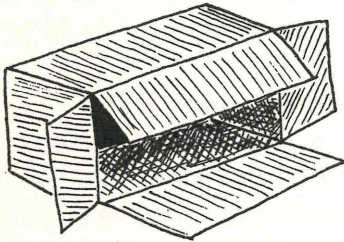
It is not very difficult to find the streak of a mineral. The easiest way is to scratch the mineral on a streak plate or a piece of unglazed porcelain (the back side of a ceramic tile can be used). If two lumps of the same mineral are rubbed together, the powder can be checked for color and the streak recorded.

The streak is very important in distinguishing the iron ores from each other. If we checked the three common iron ores, we could see the limonite would have a light brown or yellow-brown streak, hematite a red-brown streak and magnetite a black streak.

Hardness and streak are the most important of all mineral characteristics. We should be able to find both of these now.

In the next issue we shall look at the characteristic of mineral luster.

MAKING A DIORAMA



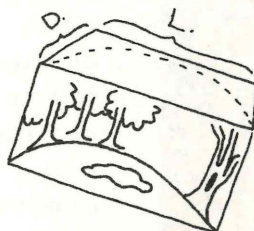
A diorama is a model of a scene found in nature. If you have ever visited a natural history museum you have probably seen some very nice dioramas or habitat displays as they are sometimes called.

Most habitat scenes have a painted background. The animals and birds are stuffed and placed in front. Artificial shrubs, trees, grasses, rocks and soil are then used to finish the display.

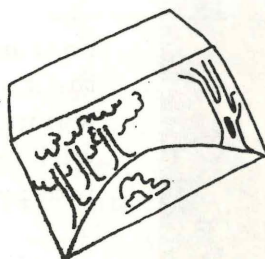
You can make an attractive diorama with simple materials such as a shoebox or carton, crayons, scissors, construction paper and glue. Follow the directions and look at the pictures for help.

Begin by cutting a carton so that it does not have a lid.

Next take a piece of paper that is a little smaller than the length plus two times the depth of your box. On this paper draw the background. It should be mostly sky, with trees and shrubs sticking up. Glue this sheet to the box. Attach the ends to the end of the box. Because it is smaller than the box it will curve around the inside of the box.



On the bottom of the box draw some grass or soil. Now add real materials: some rocks, a few pieces of moss, some small twigs, etc.



You can add animals by drawing them on paper and cutting them out, or cutting them from magazines and attaching them to cardboard stands. You can also make your animals from clay. Stand your animals on the bottom of the box and make it look as real as possible.



Your diorama can show any season or any scene. Try some different scenes.

From: A Book Of Nature Activities
by John F. Gardner, © 1967...
Interstate Printers and Publishers
Danville, Illinois, distributor

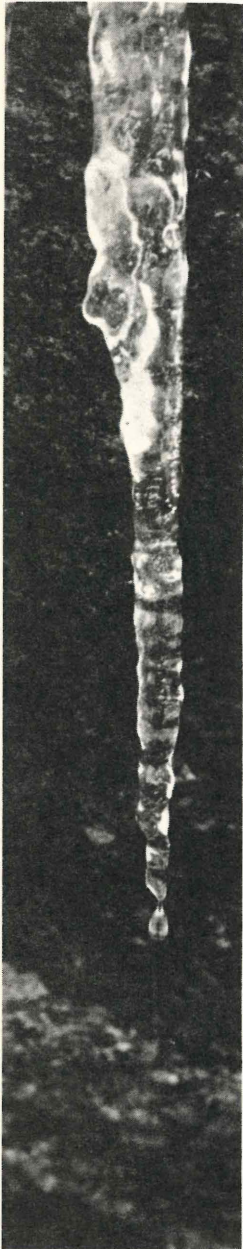
THE 40° MIRACLE

Although technically spring begins March 20th, in New England it appears to pay little heed to the calendar. The great awakening comes when the temperature rises above 40° F. Water becomes available, daylight hours lengthen and temperature rises. At the same time dormant plants and sleeping animals come to life. The sap starts to rise and everyone thinks how pleasant it is to sit in the sun.

Some of the first signs of spring have come as Christmas passes: the owl is hooting in the deep woods and ducks start their courting too, whenever the sun is warm. Their nesting is timed so that food will be abundant when their young become independent.

Spring is the time of color. Long before the earliest voices are heard in the pond, willows turn yellow-green, poplars on the hillside shine misty gray and there is a look of life in elm and gray birch. This indicates a chemical change taking place within the plant. We profit especially from the changes in sugar maples, from which we get maple sugar and maple syrup.

But what is the miracle of spring? Why is 40° the "old wives tale" signal of its arrival? Below 40° living things slow down. Water is heaviest at 39° and the water at the bottom of the pond is at this temperature.



Above 40° pond water circulates and stiff muscles get to work again. Plants whose sap, insulated by earth, was stored below ground in roots thick with sugar, now start to draw in water as melting snow and thawing earth let water percolate through the soil. The sap thins and rises and spring comes to the trees. Spring is the end of the unfavorable season for plants, for cold-blooded and even for warm-blooded animals. They all need a signal to come out. For some it is partly the longer days; for others, fresh, running water. But for all it is the warmth and 40° is the threshold.

Spring life begins early in ponds and streams. While the water is still icy cold, fairy shrimps, swimming on their backs, may be found in small ponds or temporary pools. Their red blood makes their transparent bodies seem pink and sometimes the heartbeat is visible. After a brief period they die, but not before they have deposited their eggs. Water striders, which have wintered in the trash along the edges of the pond, come out to skate on warm days. Backswimmers and water boatmen are out in early spring too, since they winter as adults in dead leaves along the edges of streams.

Although birds and mammals, being warm-blooded, may be active in very cold weather, their activity is limited by frozen water and lack of food. As the ice melts and the ground thaws, plants grow and food becomes increasingly plentiful. Soon the ice is out of the ponds; flocks of Canada geese fly north; black and wood ducks arrive. More and more the black-capped chickadee sings "fee-bee" misleading some into thinking that the phoebe has arrived unusually early. Starlings begin to use their sweeter notes and the purple finches, which are often here during the last part of winter, sing their delightful song.

About this time hibernating animals awaken from their winter sleep. This is a relatively rapid process; the heartbeat and respiration increase from their winter low to normal and soon the animal is fully awake. Many mammals are born at this time; skunks, red and gray squirrels, and foxes are born in March or April. Kept warm and safe in hollow trees and burrows, they will not be seen for several weeks.

Thus the 40^o miracle is spring. Life begins anew as animals recover from the winter to start their families.

FROM: The Curious Naturalist
Lincoln, Mass.



How The Robin Got Its Name

In early France, people referred to any young man who was in love and was trying to win his girl as "Robert". Eventually this name was shortened to Robin. The name arrived in England when the Normans invaded the country. Many people noticed a common sparrow-sized bird that had a red-orange breast. The bird would act very much like a human when trying to win a mate so they called him the red-breasted Robin. The bird soon became known as just plain Robin.

When the English colonists came to America they were unable to find the little European Robin so common in England, but they did find a larger bird with a bright orange breast so they decided to call this bird a Robin also and the name has remained ever since.



ARTICLES OF ADULT INTEREST

OIL POLLUTION INSURANCE ...

...New London is participating in a plan for guarding against damage from accidental oil spillages, through the use of a plastic oil retarding boom. Swift action is the most important factor in containing oil spillages. The Sunshine Chemical Corporation maintains a "Connecticut Hot Line" service for oil spillage. This service sends the needed equipment and chemicals at any hour. The "Hot Line" number is 232-9227.

TIDAL MARSHES AND ESTUARIES... If you are interested in the condition of Tidal Marshes along the Atlantic Coast and Southeastern Connecticut get yourself a copy of the booklet "Fish and Man". There is a state by state review of coastal resources, problems and current management. The 78 page booklet is \$1.00 and available from: American Littoral Society, Sandy Hook, Highlands, N. J. 07732.

OPEN SPACE VS. TAXES... Next time someone suggests we convert open space into tax producing housing or apartments, remind them that a typical house in Cortland, N. Y., pays \$500.00 in taxes and costs the town \$1500 for schools and services and a garden apartment complex in Mamaroneck, N. Y., which paid \$42,415 in school taxes, cost the town \$107,800 to educate the apartment children.

THE DAY...congratulations are in order for the New London Day on the Hunts Brook series, and we hope their vital interest in the environment of Southeastern Connecticut...

FILMS FOR SPORTSMEN...A listing of motion picture films produced by member companies of the National Shooting Sports Foundation is now available. The films are 16mm sound and full color movies of interest to everyone concerned with wildlife management, hunting, outdoor living and conservation. The films are furnished free of charge by the companies or their distributing agents for showings at club or group meetings. For a list of the films write to: The National Shooting Sports Foundation, 1075 Post Road, Riverside, Conn. 06878.

FOR BICYCLISTS...Cape Cod National Seashore boasts the first three specially-constructed bicycle trails in the National Park System.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER: More than 140 summer positions in 21 national park and forest areas across the country will be available next summer to highly qualified high school, college and graduate students. For information write: Student Conservation Association, Inc., Mtd., Rt. Box 304, Sagamore Hill National Historical Site, Oyster Bay, N. Y.

We welcome notice of Conservation activities or problems for inclusion in this section of the Naturalist's Notebook.... Please let us know of your local activity so that others may be aware of your efforts and lend their support where possible....

FIELD NOTES

Jan. 1 - Feb. 15

Essex, Saybrook and Lyme: On Jan. 7th, an adult BALD EAGLE was seen sitting on an ice flow in the Conn. River off Essex. A BALTIMORE ORIOLE was found dead at a feeder in Essex. In Saybrook there was GREEN-WINGED TEAL seen in North Cove on Feb. 3rd. In Old Lyme a light phased ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK was reported at Smith's Neck Road on Jan. 11th and a SHORT-EARED OWL has been seen in the area several times. Over 30 GADWALL have been wintering along the marshes at the Blackhall River.

Niantic, Waterford and New London: PUSSY WILLOWS were reported out in Waterford by Jan. 1st and DANDELIONS were seen in flower by Feb. 4th. Six drake RING-NECKED DUCKS are wintering at Gorton's Pond in Niantic. A SNOW BUNTING was seen at Harkness Park on Feb. 7th and a HERMIT THRUSH was at Magonk Point on the 1st. LONG-EARED OWLS were reported from the Strand in Waterford and Mitchell's Woods in New London on Jan. 4th and 21st respectively. TOWHEES were reported wintering at several feeding stations and a CAROLINA WREN was at the Science Center on Jan. 6th. An albino COWBIRD was reported on Feb. 1st near the Waterfall Shopping Center and a second one was seen at Pequot Ave. in New London on the 3rd. The only EVENING GROSBEAK report was of 6 birds on Sharp Hill Road in Montville. On Feb. 12th, a WOODCOCK was caught at Mary Butler Drive in Waterford and died shortly afterward probably because it could not find sufficient food.

Groton and Mystic: A HORNEED GREBE was found trapped on the ice at Groton Long Point on Feb. 4th. It was picked up and carried to open water where it was released. A LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE was seen there on the same day. At the Peace Sanctuary a YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER was seen on Feb. 5th and a WINTER WREN was present on the 7th. An immature GOSHAWK has been seen several times at the Pequotsepos Wildlife Sanctuary where the RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER is still coming regularly to feeders. A SAW-WHET OWL was caught at the Sanctuary and subsequently released. A BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON was seen on Hewitt Road on Jan. 27th. One EVENING GROSBEAK was seen flying overhead in Old Mystic on Feb. 11th.

Stonington and Rhode Island Shoreline: A red phased SCREECH OWL was struck by a car on Route 1 in Stonington. At Napatree Point in Rhode Island a SNOWY OWL was seen on Jan. 21st and a very rare LITTLE GULL was reported on Feb. 3rd. On Feb. 7th a SHORT-EARED OWL was found dead on the beach along with a COMMON MURRE--both had been shot. A SNOW BUNTING was at the Watch Hill Coast Guard Station on Feb. 7th.

Contributors to this column were: Mr. Prentice Alexander, Grace Bissell, Janet Boyd, Lawrence Brooks, Philip Dewire, Robert Dewire, John Gardner, Helen Gilman, Rick Holloway, Barbara Kashanski, Capt. John Kinsey, Robert Kunz, Mary Laffargue, Margaret MacGregor, Mrs. John MacPherson, Mrs. John Morrissey and Mary Jean Williams.

Audubon Wildlife Film Lecture for March



Alvah W. Sanborn

"Wings of the Wild"

Sunday

March 24, 1968

Here is the story of birds and how they live. These beautiful and melodious creatures whose power of flight has fascinated mankind through the ages, come in for close scrutiny through the photographic skill of Alvah W. Sanborn of Lenox, Mass. The unique qualities of feathers, various food-procuring methods, protection, courtship, breeding and raising of young are illustrated by pictures of more than sixty species. An entertaining and informative program, presented with an authoritative narration.

Annual Dinner & Meeting

All members of the Thames Science Center are invited to attend the Annual Meeting and Dinner at the Lighthouse Inn in New London, on Thursday, March 21, 1968.

The evening will begin at 6:00 p. m. with Social Hour and be followed by Dinner. Following the Dinner a short Annual Meeting will be held and the evening will be topped off with an illustrated lecture by Byron L. Ashbaugh, Associate Director, Nature Centers Division of National Audubon Society. Mr. Ashbaugh will speak on "The Thames Science Center a New Era -- Its Challenge".

A special feature of the Annual Dinner and Meeting will be the unveiling of the Plans and Model of the New Science Center Headquarters and Interpretive Building.

Tickets must be purchased prior to March 15th.

DISCOVERING NATURE WITH YOUR CHILD

by J. F. GARDNER

We discovered this story for hands to tell that mothers can play with the children at home.

THIS IS THE WAY



— This is a flower bud,
Green and tight. —



left hand



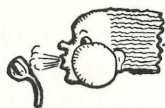
— This is the sun,
That turns colors bright. —



— This is the rain,
That makes it grow strong. —



down to ground
and up to bud



— This is the wind,
That sings it a song. —



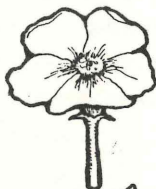
over and
back 3 times



— This is the way
The bud starts to grow. —



— These are the petals,
Unfolding, — so — slow. —



— This is the flower,
Open wide, —



— And holding food
For bees, inside. —

— This is a bee, —
Making honey, —



bzzzz

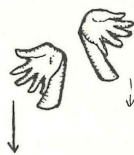


And getting all dusty
With flower money.

long
sucking
sound



This is the way
The petals fall.



But that is not
The end of it all.

This is the seed-pod
Left behind.



So little and green
It is hard to find.



This is the way
The pod grows wide

Hiding the new
Little seeds inside.



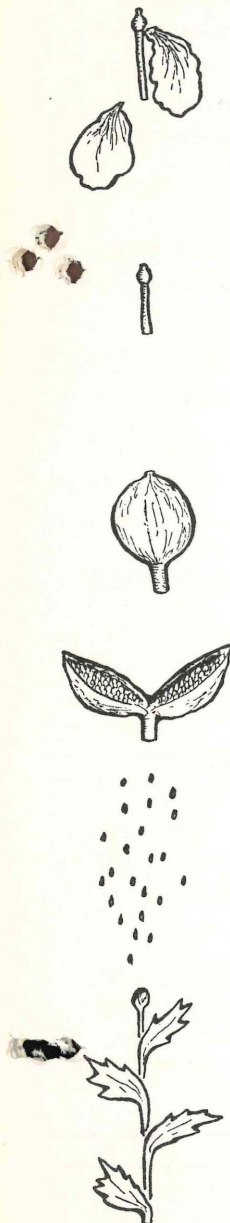
This is the way
The new seeds fall,

But that is not
The end of it all.



This is the way
The seed starts to grow,

And makes a new
Little bud, you know.



May Theilgaard Watts

May we suggest a gift membership . . .

The strength and effectiveness of the Thames Science Center is in many ways proportional to the size of its membership. It follows that if every present member were to take out a gift membership for someone else this year, your Science Center's membership would double, with a corresponding increase in its ability to meet its various commitments to members and the community at large.

There are many appropriate occasions for presenting a membership, the gift that keeps on giving throughout the year!

- To mark a birthday or anniversary
- As a thank-you gift
- In return for a favor
- As a special present

A membership blank follows for your convenience.

THAMES SCIENCE CENTER

622 WILLIAMS ST., NEW LONDON, CONN. 06320

PLEASE SEND A GIFT MEMBERSHIP TO THE FOLLOWING:

Annual dues: 12 months from _____

Name _____

Street _____ City _____

Phone _____ Zip Code _____

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual \$5 (each adult member of family) | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Patron \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (under 16) \$5 |

Gift of: _____

Card Should Read: Gift of _____

*Please make checks payable to The Thames Science Center
Contributions are tax deductible*

YOUR OWN FAMILY NATURE JAUNT *by BOB DEWIRE*

NAPATREE POINT

If one goes for a walk around Napatree Point in the winter, he will find it to be very cold and windy. By March however, the walk becomes more pleasant and one can generally see the same animal life present that has been there all winter. You should plan to walk out on one side of the beach and back on the other, which will allow you to see the difference in the animal activity in the open ocean from that in the sheltered cove.

There are always many surprises for the beach-comber as he walks up the beach. Different animals and shells can be found washed up on the shore every week. I refer you to the September 1967 issue of the Junior Naturalist Newsletter which lists things that can regularly be found on Napatree.

In walking out on the ocean side, the birds that are most likely to be seen are common loons and horned grebes just offshore. Basically there will be little else until you get out to the fort at the bend in the point. Take the path up to the top and look out over the ocean. This is the finest area to look for some of the real northern sea ducks that rarely come near shore. The three species of scoters--surf, white-winged and common may all be present along with a common ~~bird~~ or two. The thickets around the fort will have such things as myrtle warblers and song sparrows and by mid-March--red-winged blackbirds.

In March there is one thing to see on Napatree Point that is far more spectacular than anything else--the migrating flock of brant. The brant is a small goose that looks very much like a miniature Canada

goose except that the white on the neck is quite faint. The tip of Napatree has always been a resting place for these birds on their northward flight. The first birds arrive in February and the numbers swell until they reach a peak in March and April of up to 500 or more birds. They stay close to the shore and often all take off at once and fly around the point at very close range affording one of the most stunning of sights.

There are few shorebirds present at this time. The common ones are the purple sandpiper and the dunlin. Piping plovers arrive after mid-March. Black-bellied plovers and sanderlings may also be present. Large flocks of ducks such as goldeneyes, buffleheads and red-breasted mergansers may be found on the sheltered side of the point along with many cormorants.

Finally, one may often find horned larks and an occasional snow bunting in the grassy dunes in the center of the sand spit. A walk out on Napatree Point may also result in the very lucky persons finding a short-eared or snowy owl present and this along with the brant will make a wonderful trip.



ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH:

Mar. 2 - All Day--Adult Field Trip to Cape Ann in Massachusetts. Call the Science Center to sign up for this trip.

Mar. 3 - 2:30 p.m.--Family Film Festival for young and old. Featuring "Beaver Valley" by Walt Disney productions. Lyman-Allyn Museum Auditorium.

Mar. 9 - 1:30 p.m.--"Signs of Spring" a Field Trip for Junior Members in grades 1, 2 and 3. At the Peace Sanctuary in Mystic. Prior registration by March 6th. One hour.

Mar. 16 - 8:30 a.m.--Family Nature Jaunt to Rocky Neck and the surrounding area. Meet at the main parking lot in Rocky Neck State Park.

Mar. 17 - 2:30 p.m.--Family Nature Jaunt to Napatree Point (see article "Your Own Family Nature Jaunt"). Meet at Watch Hill parking lot. Dress for 3 mile walk.

Mar. 21 - 6:00 p.m.--Thames Science Center Annual Dinner featuring Guest Speaker and Unveiling of New Building Plans.... You will receive your invitation, or call 443-4295.

Mar. 23 - 1:30 p.m.--Junior Nature Jaunt for members in grades 4, 5 and 6. Meet at entrance of Peace Sanctuary in Mystic. One hour walk...prior registration by March 20th.

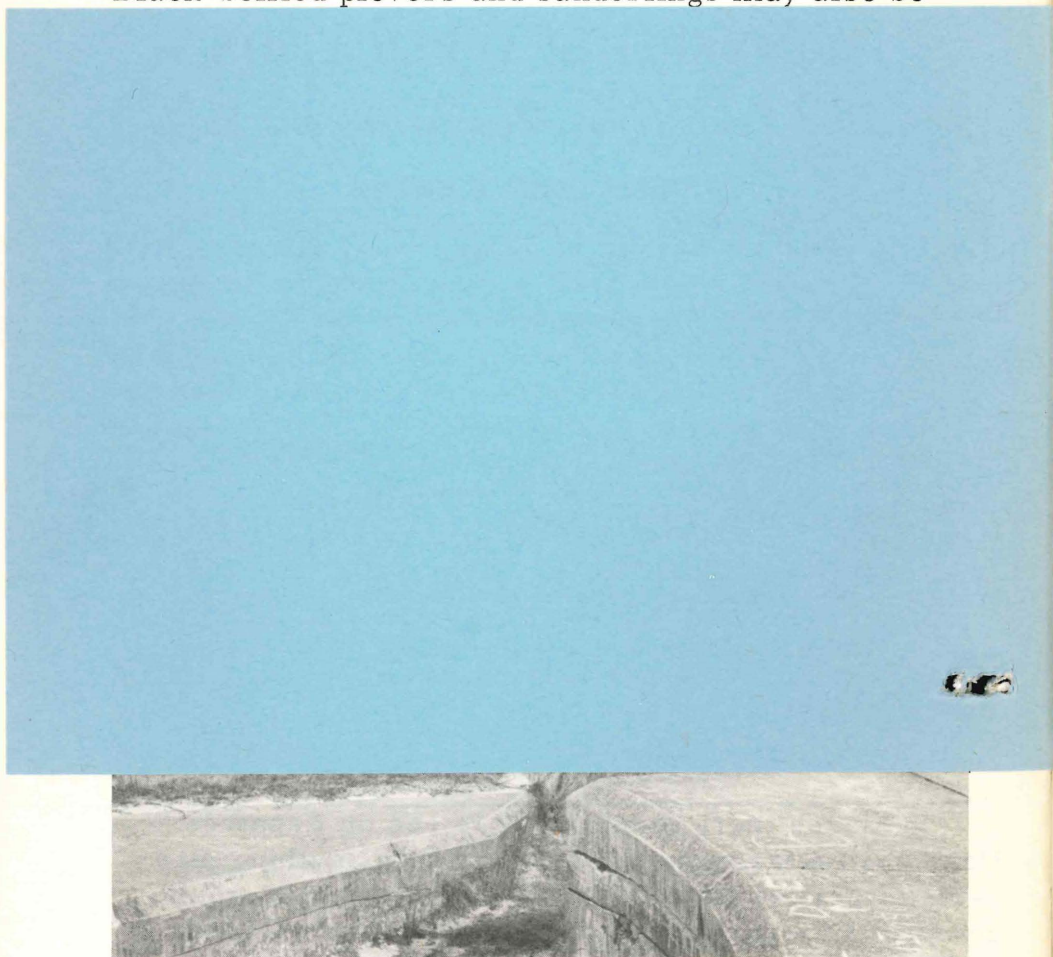
Mar. 24 - 3:00 p.m.--Audubon Wildlife Film Lecture, ~~Call~~ for this season. Alvah Sanborn presents "Wings of the Wild".

Mar. 30 - 8:30 a.m.--Family Nature Jaunt to Barn Island. Meet at parking lot. We are seeking those first signs of spring.

Mar. 31 - 2:00 p.m.--Family Nature Jaunt to the Peace Sanctuary Nature Preserve. Meet at the entrance.

goose except that the white on the neck is quite faint. The tip of Napatree has always been a resting place for these birds on their northward flight. The first birds arrive in February and the numbers swell until they reach a peak in March and April of up to 500 or more birds. They stay close to the shore and often all take off at once and fly around the point at very close range affording one of the most stunning of sights.

There are few shorebirds present at this time. The common ones are the purple sandpiper and the dunlin. Piping plovers arrive after mid-March. Black-bellied plovers and sanderlings may also be



ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH:

Mar. 2 - All Day--Adult Field Trip to Cape Ann in Massachusetts. Call the Science Center to sign up for this trip.

Mar. 3 - 2:30 p.m.--Family Film Festival for young and old. Featuring "Beaver Valley" by Walt Disney productions. Lyman-Allyn Museum Auditorium.

Mar. 9 - 1:30 p.m.--"Signs of Spring" a Field Trip for Junior Members in grades 1, 2 and 3. At the Peace Sanctuary in Mystic. Prior registration by March 6th. One hour.

Mar. 16 - 8:30 a.m.--Family Nature Jaunt to Rocky Neck

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

We Need Your Active Membership and Support

THAMES SCIENCE CENTER

622 WILLIAMS ST., NEW LONDON, CONN. 06320

Phone: 443-4295

Annual dues: 12 months from _____

Name _____

Street _____ City _____

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CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual \$5 (each adult member of family) | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Patron \$50 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (under 16) \$3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A special gift toward support of the Science Center effort is included \$_____ | |

*Please make checks payable to The Thames Science Center
Contributions are tax deductible*

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THAMES SCIENCE CENTER

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